

Mountaineer

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INSIDE THE MOUNTAINEER

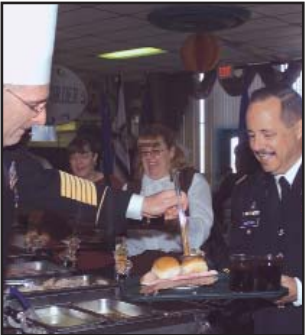
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Feature



Fort Carson serves up holiday spirit with Thanksgiving activities around the local area.

See Page 18 and 19.

Happenings



A variety of holiday activities in the Pikes Peak area, Denver and Pueblo, are listed in the Happenings section. Many activities are free or low cost.

See Page 27.

Vehicle Registration

The trailer by gate 1 has been removed. Vehicle registration will now be done in the guard shack at gate 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Post Weather hotline:
526-0096



Photo by Spc. Jon Christoffersen

Trimming the tree ...

Marie-Anne Sheley, operations assistant, Fort Carson golf course, places an ornament on a tree during the setup for the Trim A Tree contest Wednesday at the Post Physical Fitness Center. The trees will be on display throughout the Holiday Village and units, facilities or groups around post were judged on their trees for an opportunity to earn \$200 worth of Morale, Welfare and Recreation bucks.

Don't forget ...

Holiday Village offers entertainment, Santa

With Christmas just around the corner it is time to get in the holiday spirit with Fort Carson's Holiday Village.

This is the second year the Holiday Village has been held at Fort Carson, and the event offers a wide variety of entertainment, including Harmony in Motion, Millennium All-star, Yultiders, Fort Carson Chapel Choir and other key note singers.

The event is at the Post Physical Fitness Center and continues through Saturday. Today's events are from 6 until 8:30 p.m. and Saturday's events are from noon to 6 p.m.

Santa will be on site for pictures each day. Pictures cost \$5, and will be printed and available the same day. Additionally, Santa Paw Pictures will be available for the family pet to have a picture taken with Santa, held Saturday only, from 10 a.m. to noon. Pictures cost \$5. Live reindeer and elf handlers telling interactive stories will be featured Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Other events include a craft fair, hay rides, childrens activities, gingerbread displays, ice carvings and food booths provided by the Family Support Groups. Christmas trees will be on sale outside the Post Physical Fitness Center.

For more information, call 526-4494.

Stop-loss freezes mobilized reservists

by Joe Burlas
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army's newest Stop-Loss measure will keep all mobilized Reserve and National Guard soldiers in the Army until at least 90 days after their unit demobilizes.

The new announcement will help reserve-component unit readiness because it keeps mobilized reservists from departing their unit and the Army in the middle of a mission at the end of their enlistment or otherwise leave, program officials said.

The latest of six Stop-Loss announcements since the first measure was implemented a year ago was sent to the field by an "All Army Activities" message Nov. 4. Specific implementing instructions went out Nov. 21 via Military Personnel messages 03-040 and 03-041.

"This is a unit-based Stop-Loss versus the previous individual-skill announcements," said Lt. Col. Bob Ortiz, chief of Enlisted Distribution and Readiness Branch, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G1.

"Basically, the reserve leadership asked for some help in preventing readiness degradation of RC units when mobilized."

The measure takes effect upon Reserve and National Guard soldiers the day their units are alerted for mobilization.

Ortiz explained how soldiers leaving their units for retirement or separation while their unit was mobilized has created a domino effect on RC unit readiness.

"When a soldier leaves, that leaves a hole in the unit that has to be filled," Ortiz said. "In order to fill that hole, reserve commands have been reaching into other units that haven't been mobilized, which cannibalizes that unit for trained and qualified individual replacements. That leaves a readiness problem for the units giving up the replacements when it is their turn for mobilization. This Stop-Loss measure is designed to fix that problem."

Mobilized reservists impacted by previous Stop-Loss announcements must remain in the Army in a Ready-Reserve status for 90 days after their unit demobilizes or for

one year after their skill was identified as critical to the needs of the Army by a Stop-Loss message, whichever is later. This part of the newest measure impacts about 25,000 reservists, Ortiz said.

Prior to August when the 12-month policy went into effect, Stop-Loss soldiers were frozen in the Army, unable to retire or separate the end of their enlistment for an indefinite period. The 12-month policy was implemented to provide impacted soldiers some predictability while meeting the manpower needs of the Army in selected shortage skills, Ortiz said.

The Army will continue to assess its manpower needs on a monthly basis and make appropriate Stop-Loss decisions as necessary, Ortiz said.

Stop-Loss does not impact involuntary separations or mandatory retirements.

MILPER messages 03-040 and 03-041 can be viewed via the Total Army Personnel Command Homepage, www.perscom.army.mil, from a link at the center of the page.

Commander's Corner

Remember Pearl Harbor Saturday



Wilson

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is Saturday, the 61st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. It's when we reflect upon the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on America that came without warning at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This attack by the air and naval forces of Imperial Japan killed 2,400

people and wounded 1,100 others. The attack triggered our entry into World War II.

Our more recent memory reflects upon the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on America. It came without warning at the World Trade Center, southwest Pennsylvania and the Pentagon. These attacks by terrorists killed more than 2,900 people from 80 countries. This attack marked the start of the war against terrorism.

Reflecting upon these attacks, it is important that we foster a spirit of remembrance. "December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy," is part of our collective national memory. So is Sept. 11, 2001. Both days serve as a symbol of American resolve to be vigilant against those who would threaten our way of life.

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day honors the sacrifices made by the heroes of Pearl Harbor. We also remember the men and women of all generations who were called to defend our nation. To honor those who have gone before us, I encourage you to attend the memorial service being held at the Veterans Memorial at Memorial Park in Colorado Springs, Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon.

Remembering the sacrifices of those who came before us reinforces our understanding that we cannot take our security for granted. Remembering fuels our resolve to be ready to fight and win the war against terrorism. Today is for us to remember those veterans who answered the call — and, when called, so will we.

Mission first ... people always ... one team ... Bayonet!

Maj. Gen. Robert Wilson
Fort Carson and 7th Infantry Division
Commanding general

Recycling — part of local environment

by Susan C. Galentine-Ketchum
Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management

Even though the term recycling has become a part of our everyday language, it is easy to forget how important recycling is. President George W. Bush declared Nov. 15, as America Recycles Day. In his proclamation, the president cited our nation's progress in recycling as well as our ongoing need for improvement. The following is a portion of his proclamation for America Recycles Day.

"Recycling has become one of the most successful environmental initiatives in our nation's history. In 1990, Americans recycled or composted 34 million tons of material. In the following decade, this number more than doubled to nearly 70 million tons. These efforts are helping to safeguard our environment by reducing the need for landfills and incinerators ... Although we have made significant progress, much work still remains. Americans generate more than 230 million tons of solid waste each year. At home and in school, parents and teachers can educate children about the benefits of recycling and the importance of caring for our environment. By purchasing products made from recycled materials, American consumers provide economic incentives for businesses to collect, produce and market more products that are recycled and recyclable.

Our recycling and reuse industry provides approximately 1.4 million jobs, producing billions of dollars in annual revenues that contribute to the prosperity of our country. By recycling, we conserve our valuable resources, protect our air and water from harmful pollutants, and strengthen our economy."

During the Fort Carson Sustainability Workshop in September, the installation, with the help of local community members, set a goal to reduce solid and hazardous waste 100 percent by 2027. Fort Carson uses the concept of sustainability to mean using resources to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations (or soldiers) to meet their own needs (mission). This includes reusing materials through recycling, which has the added benefit of preventing materials ending up at landfills and taking up more dwindling land space.

Fort Carson residents have an active recycling program to take advantage of on post and help with the installation's goal to reduce solid waste. The Recycle Center staff is always researching ways to expand the program to recycle additional waste products, make the program more user friendly and incentives to get people thinking and participating in recycling.

Currently, there are two recycle drop-off locations are available on post that are open 24-hours a

day. One is at the Recycle Center, building 155, located off of Wickersham, near Gate 3 and the other is at the southeast corner of the post exchange on Sheridan. The Recycle Center drop-off center accepts cardboard, white paper, newspaper, magazines, aluminum, tin, plastic and glass. The PX drop-off accepts all the previously-mentioned items except white paper and brass. Additionally, there are 60 cardboard containers located throughout the post available for cardboard collection alone.

The Recycle Center is also home to a brass deforming machine for units to turn in spent shell casings. The deformer crushes the empty cartridges and crushes the brass so the casings can't be reused or reloaded. The brass is then turned in for recycling. Housing area residents who want recycling bins from Waste Management need to contact the leasing office at 226-2268, where they can be signed up for containers to be dropped off by their waste disposal contractor.

Proceeds from recycling are first used to reimburse the cost of operating the recycle program. Income over and above operation, repair and maintenance costs can then be used for quality of life projects on post.

If you would like to submit your ideas on recycling initiatives or simply find out more about on-post recycling, call 526-5898.

Competent: EO's word of the month for December

by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Farmer
Fort Carson Equal Opportunity Office

The Consideration of Others word of the month for December is competent. To discuss what competent is, you need to know what it means.

A standard definition for a competent person is, one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in their surroundings or working conditions which are hazardous or dangerous to themselves and other soldiers, and who can promptly take corrective measures to eliminate them. Being competent is not just a leader's job, but also a job for all soldier, civilians and Department of Defense employees. Competent refers to much more than just our knowledge and skills. The development of competence is through four distinct elements: formal education, training, supervised experience,

and continuous professional development. As a soldier, to develop competence with a particular military occupational specialty, one must train and use the shared supervisor experiences. Developing and maintaining competence are of vital importance to all on and off the battlefield. Once competency is developed it must be maintained. This may include advanced training. Field training and Sergeant's Time training are the keys to the military remaining competent to successfully carry out our mission. To me, this means having good leadership. Leaders, never let yourselves believe there will be time to train later. We must be ready to fight, win, and survive at all times. Candor, courage, commitment and competency are watchwords for noncommissioned officers.

All soldiers must remain competent throughout the span of their military careers.

MOUNTAINEER

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News

Family Action Plan takes 27 issues to Army leaders

by Harriet Rice

Community Family Support Center Public Affairs Officer

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Five completed Army Family Action Plan issues will make life better for the Army. They were on the agenda of 27 issues presented at the AFAP General Officer Steering Committee that met here Nov. 20 during the weeklong AFAP Conference.

Maj. Gen. Lawrence R. Adair, assistant deputy chief of staff/G-1, owned the first completed issue, number 504, Recalculation of Dislocation Allowance. Prior to 1998, DLA was computed using the basic housing allowance multiplied by 2.5. DLA increases now by the annual percentage rate increase of basic pay.

“The current computation is based on the baseline from last year and is tied to the annual pay increase,” said Adair. “So as our pay increases 4.1 percent, the dislocation allowance is also increasing 4.1 percent.” The next DLA increase is in January 2003, when a 4.1 percent pay raise is projected to take effect.

Lt. Gen. James B. Peake, the Army surgeon general, had good news about two completed medical issues, the first of which is medical care for families of active duty soldiers living and working in stateside remote areas (more than 50 miles from a medical treatment facility). Family member enrollment in TRICARE Prime Remote began in September in the final phase that brings issue number 408 Medical Care at Remote Locations for Family Members to completion.

This issue has been a work in progress since 1999 when co-payments and deductibles were eliminated as the first step toward resolving the issue. An extensive marketing campaign is under way for the new program and enrollment numbers continue to increase, said Peake. An estimated 145,000 active duty family members are eligible for coverage under TPR.

A medical issue that entered the AFAP process in 1998, number 445, Shortage of Professional Marriage and Family Counselors, is the third completed issue. One additional certified therapist was funded and hired for each of 12 European communities.

“We have good quality folks,” commented Chief of Army Chaplains Maj. Gen. Gaylord T. Gunhus. “We’re working with the (Army) Surgeon General to enhance all the programs we have.”

Recruitment for 10 licensed marriage/family therapists at nine stateside locations is under way as the Surgeon General takes action on a related still-active issue, number 474 Shortage of Professional Marriage and Family Counselors.

Commenting on this subject, Keane noted the lessons learned from the tragic spate of domestic violence earlier this year. “We have done some good work trying to understand what took place at Fort Bragg,” he said. “We are challenged by the families’ perception of liability being assessed (a soldier) who has problems. We have learned from it and that will benefit other families.”

The fourth completed issue, number 477, addressed

the dissemination of TRICARE information. This issue resulted in the posting of revision dates on medical Web sites and included TRICARE information for in and out-processing.

The fifth and final completed issue, a G-1 Civilian Personnel action, number 332, Portability of Benefits Act for Non-appropriated Funds Employees 1990, allows employees retirement credit for prior non-appropriated fund service under the Civil Service Retirement and the Federal Employee Retirement Systems.

“Service is creditable toward retirement, but does not give you additional monies,” Ann McFadden, from G1 Civilian Personnel, pointed out. “That would add tremendous cost, so this portion of the issue can not be attained.”

Two active issues that generated much discussion revolved around educational benefits. Issue number 497, Distribution of Montgomery GI Bill benefits to Dependents, would allow soldiers to use college funds for their spouses or children. Language in the fiscal year 2002 National Defense Authorization Act helped, but conditions such as re-enlistment for an additional four years and applicability only to soldiers with critical skills limited who could use the benefit this way.

A new House resolution introduced in April would remove the “critical skills” requirement and allow service secretaries to offer transferability to all service-

AFAP

From Page 3

members; however the legislation still requires the servicemember to have a total of 10 years of service.

Command Sgt. Maj. Carl E. Christian, U.S. Army Forces Command, commented, "If I had had this 10 years ago, my children would be in college. Soldiers would like to share (this benefit) with their spouses and children." A committee member added, "Midgrade soldiers making decisions about staying in the Army would like this."

The related issue, number 475, Active Duty Spouse Tuition/Education Assistance, with U.S. Army Personnel Command as the proponent, was changed from a status of "unattainable" to "active." Those who participated in the discussion were unanimous in agreeing that spouses want more than just a job; they want careers and they need the education those careers demand.

The arguments regarding the AFAP recommendation to establish an Armywide spouse tuition-assistance program stem from resource and personnel/operational tempo issues. Maj. Gen. Jerry L. Sinn, deputy assistant secretary of the Army (budget), said the cost would amount to less than \$10 million based on potential use by 1 percent of 300,000 spouses in the Army.

Other solutions include PERSCOM officials studying in-state tuition and residency requirements as they apply to Army spouses and college-age family members, an expanded Army Continuing Education Web site that links to various financial aid and scholarship programs (www.armyeducation.army.mil), and grants from Army Emergency Relief for spouses located outside the continental U.S.

Chaired by Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John M. Keane, the 35-member GOSC meets semi-annually and is composed of general officer representatives from the Army staff and major Army commands and Defense Department senior executive service civilians.

The group's charter is to review AFAP issues for feasibility, provide status briefings on existing issues, determine the appropriate status for each one — active, completed or unattainable — and tender recommendations to the Army chief of staff. All issues are briefed by the heads of proponent agencies.

Keane expressed his support for the AFAP process. "This conference is all about our soldiers and doing what's right for them," he said.

"Their families know we'll be there for them. We try very hard to get it right. We listen to our families; we are responsive to them in a way unlike any other (process) in the Army. This is the end product today: getting together to get things done in this forum."

Top five AFAP conference issues (of 24 briefed):

1. In-State College Tuition
2. Retirement Dislocation Allowance
3. Selective Use of Military Spouse Preference
4. Montgomery GI Bill (10 year limit)
5. Medical Coverage for Activated Reserve

Component Families

Most critical active AFAP issues:

1. Distribution of Montgomery GI Bill Benefits to Dependents
2. Active Duty Spouse Tuition/Education Assistance
3. Modification of Weight Allowance Table (increase for enlisted families)
- 4 Revitalize All Army Family Housing by 2010
5. Pay Table Reform (mid to senior NCOs)
6. Army Retirement Benefits Awareness

Most valuable community services

1. Army Community Service
2. Medical/Dental Services
3. Commissary
3. Housing (a tie for third)

Military

Care packages sent to help Army Space Command soldiers

by Maj. Laura Kenney

Army Space Command Public Affairs Office

Anyone who has been a single soldier stationed far from home — and many readers of this story probably fit that bill — you know your barracks room, with all its stuff, becomes your haven.

Picture that barracks room in a foreign country, which, no matter how exciting and exotic, is still a far cry from home. Then add the time element — just before the holidays.

Now, imagine those rooms/havens devastated by fire. All soldiers involved, four Joint Tactical Ground Station soldiers stationed in Korea, escaped with their lives and health intact, except for some smoke inhalation injuries. They were left with just the clothes on their backs, literally.

In the very best tradition of family helping family, soldiers from Army Space Command headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base, upon hearing of their fellow soldiers' plight, banded together with the Family Support Group to raise money to fill care packages to send overseas.

In a few short days, since the emphasis was on a speedy mailing of the comfort articles, more than \$500 was raised.

Tina Bailem, Family Support Group coordinator, and wife of 1st Space Battalion's Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Lester Bailem, described the contents of the care packages.

"We have gift certificates for the Army and Air Force Exchange, so they can purchase necessities. We also put in nice thick sweatshirts with Colorado

symbols on them. There was a personal note of concern from the battalion commander and our group, and, last but not least, homemade cookies for that personal touch.

"We all just felt so terribly sorry for the soldiers and wanted to do something to help. We'll be having fund-raisers to send them more packages later, but we felt we had to get them something right away," she said.

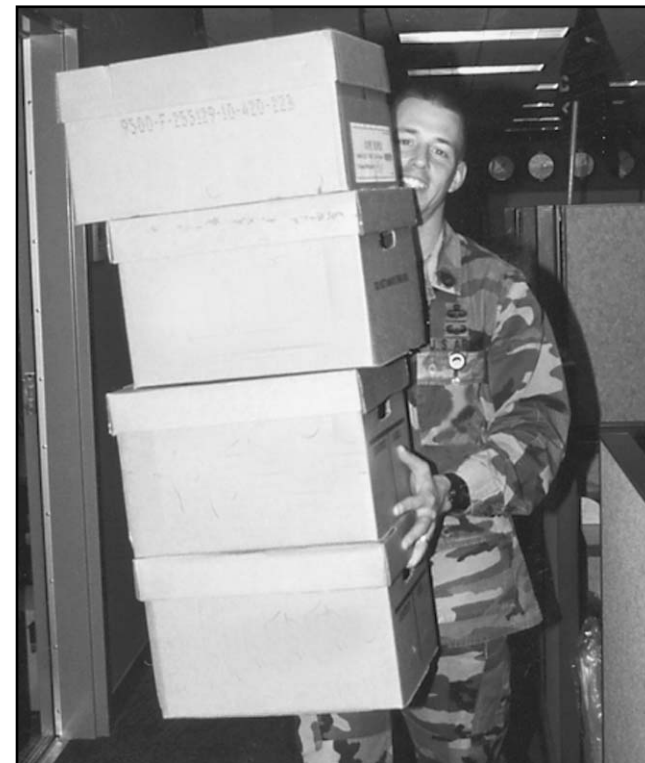
Lt. Col. Scott Netherland, 1st Space Battalion commander, spearheaded the effort, sending an e-mail detailing the soldiers' situation to all of Army Space Command, and asking for support.

"This is what the Army does — stand by its people. I'm very proud of the quick and generous response," said Netherland.

The four soldiers, staff sergeants Philip Tatum, John Peart and Jeffrey Patterson and Sgt. Ronald Morgan, didn't have to wait the notoriously long time a package normally takes to arrive in foreign climates during the holiday season. They received personal hand delivery.

Maj. Shelley Volkwein, commander of the Theater Missile Warning Company, delivered the packages the weekend after they were assembled, during a command visit to Korea. She performed an assessment of their individual needs that will be helpful in the ongoing efforts to assist the soldiers.

The fire was caused by a faulty built-in humidifier in the basement. The building was damaged to the extent that it will have to be torn down and rebuilt.



Courtesy photo

A soldier carries boxes of care packages for Joint Tactical Ground Station soldiers stationed in Korea, whose barracks were destroyed by a fire. The Army Space Command soldiers banded together with the Family Support Group to raise money for care packages to send overseas.

Military Briefs

Soldiers on profiles — In accordance with Army Regulation 600-60, all soldiers with a P3 or P4 profile in any area of their body designators — Physical Capacity, Upper extremities, Lower extremities, Hearing, Eyes or Psychiatric — are required to appear before the Military Occupation Specialty/Medical Retention Board within 60 days of the signed approved profile. The purpose of this requirement is to maintain the quality of the force by ensuring the soldiers are physically qualified to perform their Primary Military Occupational Speciality worldwide under field conditions. Soldiers with a P3 or P4 profile are non-deployable as of the date the profile is completed. P3 or P4 soldiers are not authorized reassignment, training at any U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command course or advancement course, or re-enlistment without appearance before the board. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Keith Cashion at 526-6530.

There will be four Personnel Management Centers. The newest addition will support all satellite and stand alone units on or around Fort Carson. The 43rd Area Support Group PMC will no longer service units other than those within the 43rd ASG. *The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment PMC* (building 2256) supports: Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd ACR; Support Squadron; and all squadrons in 3rd ACR. The *3rd Brigade Combat Team PMC* (building 2155) supports: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade; 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 68th Armored Regiment; 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery; 4th Engineer Battalion; and 64th Forward Support Battalion. The *43rd Area Support Group PMC* (building 1118, room 308) supports: 68th Combat Support Hospital; 52nd Engineer Battalion; 759th Military Police Battalion; 10th Combat Support Hospital; and 4th Finance Battalion. The *Mountain Post Team PMC* (building 1118, room 208) supports all satellite and stand-alone units on or around Fort Carson to include: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Infantry Division; United States Army Garrison; United States Army Reserve Division; 2nd Brigade, 91st Division; 62nd Explosive Ordnance Detachment; 764th EOD; 502nd Personnel Support Battalion; 14th Public Affairs Detachment; 10th Special Forces Group; Medical Department; Dental Activities; VETCOM; 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion; Dugway; and Military Enlistment Processing Command, Denver.

The SIDPERS Superserver will blackout from Dec. 15 to 31. All sergeants first class eligible for the master sergeant board must make an appointment with their servicing Personnel Management Centers to update their records before Dec. 15.

Soldiers who converted from VEAP to MGIB last year are reminded that it is their responsibility to individually check and ensure they have paid the full

\$2,700 within the required deadline, 18 months from the date entered on their DD Form 2366. Meeting this 18-month deadline is critical. Soldiers have no education benefits to utilize until the required \$2,700 is paid in full. Furthermore, soldiers who fail to pay the money in full by the deadline will forfeit all contributions made to that point and will not be eligible for any MGIB benefits.

Many soldiers have had problems with their local finance offices erroneously stopping the reduction in pay when it reached \$600 or \$12,009. In some cases, Finance refunded some payments to the soldiers. These are finance problems and errors, and must be resolved. Defense Finance and Accounting Service has sent a message out to field finance offices advising them of the needed corrective action. However, soldiers are ultimately responsible for initiating action to discover and correct finance mistakes. Soldiers may have to make lump sum payments to ensure the full \$2,700 is paid within the 18 months. For more information, contact Bill Unger, 526-4125, or any guidance counselor at the education center.

Post Laundry Service — The Post Laundry service provides free laundry and dry cleaning service to soldiers for government-owned property only. Items issued by the Central Issue Facility should be cleaned at the Post Laundry prior to turn in. Soldiers are reminded to allow extra time for items to return from the cleaners. It is not recommended to pick up your equipment on the same day as the scheduled CIF appointment. The turnaround for the service is 72 hours and no appointment is necessary. The Post Laundry will not clean personal items like BDUs, boots, tent pegs, canteens, entrenching tools or wet-weather gear. Material TA-50 items that can be washed include: sleeping bag assembly, chemical suits, Gortex, ruck sacks, coveralls, CVC jackets and most web equipment. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 3:45 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, excluding holidays. For more information call, 526-8806 or 526-8804.

Fort Carson Ammunition and Explosives amnesty turn-in — When military A & E is found outside the boundaries of Fort Carson military areas, notify the local civilian authorities or the military police, 526-2333. Abandoned military A & E, excluding small arms ammunition up to and including .50 caliber, will not be moved by untrained personnel. If A & E are found, notify the Fort Carson 764th Explosive Ordnance Company, 526-2643. Abandoned A & E found on post may be turned in at the Ammunition Reclamation Area, located on Butts Road, one mile south of the airfield. The hours are Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Ammunition Supply Point, 526-4381, or the Quality Assurance Office, 526-1795 or 526-1892.

Procedure for replacing lost or stolen Identification Cards — Effective immediately, all soldiers assigned or attached to Fort Carson who have had an ID Card or Common Access Card lost or stolen will be required to present a memorandum signed by their commander when requesting a replacement card. Local policy requires all active duty soldiers, reservists, retirees, family members and Fort Carson civilian employees who lose their ID or Common Access Card to present a form of identification before a replacement card can be issued. The following forms of ID are acceptable: valid driver's license with photo, state ID with photo, birth certificate with seal or photocopy of birth certificate that reflects the state file number. If no form of ID is available, the soldier must be accompanied by a senior noncommissioned officer (Sgt. 1st Class or above) or a commissioned officer.

Hours of operation

The 3rd Cavalry Museum will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The museum will be closed federal holidays, except Memorial and Veterans days. Group tours and individual visits from civilians without a valid government identification card can be arranged by contacting the museum, 526-1404 or 526-2028, within 24 hours of the planned visit.

Holiday schedule for Range Division — The

Range Division will be closed Dec. 24 and 25, and Jan. 1. It will close at 5 p.m. Dec. 23. The hours of operation Dec. 26 through 31 will be 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. and regular hours of operation will be restarted Jan. 2.

Information, Tickets and Reservations Office and the Outdoor Recreation Complex Information Desk has been combined in an effort to better serve customers. Hours of operation are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For information, call 526-2083 or 526-5366.

For official travel services, Carlson-Wagonlit Travel, in building 1012 on Long Street, is open Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and until 3 p.m. on training holidays.

Travelers are reminded to bring three copies of travel orders when picking up tickets for official travel. Soldiers and family members must have one original and one copy of their "travelopes" and three copies of each order, to include amendments, for overseas permanent changes of station. If you cannot pick up your tickets in person, you can fax a copy of orders to 526-1142 or 576-5262 for issuance of an E-ticket.

Please call 576-5188 to confirm receipt of faxed orders. Tickets will not be issued without orders. If you do not use your ticket, you must bring it and two copies of your orders. If you were issued an E-ticket and did not travel, you still must bring in two copies of orders to process a refund for the unused ticket.

Central Issue Facility hours of operation are: Regular business hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Initial Issue/Partial Issue/DX: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays: 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Partial Turn-Ins: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. All Full Turn-Ins require an appointment. Please call 524-2006 or 526-2729 to schedule an appointment. For questions, call Stacey Sly at 526-5512.

Briefings

Special Forces briefings — Special Forces recruiting briefings are held Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Grant Library for males in the pay grades E-3 to E-7, with a GT score of 100 or higher, who are U.S. citizens.

ETS/Transition briefing schedule — In order for soldiers to receive their ETS orders, soldiers must attend an ETS briefing. Soldiers may sign in at 7:15 a.m. and the briefing begins at 7:30 a.m. in building 1118, room 317. For more information, call the Transition Center at 526-2240 or 526-4298.

Pest control training — Pest Management Regulation, AR 200-5, requires only certified applicators apply pesticides on military installations. The Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management has a program that provides military personnel the necessary training and herbicide. Each unit is allowed a maximum of five people for training unless approved through the unit commander to DECAM. Training sessions are scheduled for the first and third Tuesday of every month from 10 to 11 a.m. at building 3711 until all units have received the training.

The Commanding General's Newcomers' Brief is the third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. at McMahon Theater.

The following are dates for upcoming briefings: Dec. 18.

Miscellaneous

Monthly siren test — To ensure Fort Carson sirens remain operational, a monthly test will be conducted at noon on the last Friday of each month. The test will sound six seconds on, six seconds off, for a duration of five minutes. The "all clear" will be indicated by a continuous three-minute siren.

Editor's note: The deadline for submitting "briefs" to the Mountaineer is 5 p.m. Friday before publication.



Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers

Ski trip

A ski trip for single soldiers, including single parents, geographical bachelors and single officers, is scheduled for Dec. 21. The price is \$17.50, which includes transportation and lift ticket, but the soldier must bring his or her own equipment. Rental is available at the Outdoor Recreation Center. For rental costs, call Outdoor Rec at 526-1993. For more information call 524-2677.

Greenback

Tax season — know when you will need more than a W-2

by **2nd Lt. Suzanne Love**
4th Finance Battalion

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is again gearing up for the tax season and is providing information to help soldiers file their calendar year 2002 taxes.

All calendar year 2002 Army Wage and Tax Statements, or W-2s, will be mailed by Jan. 31, 2003. According to the Leave and Earning Statements for November 2002, the W-2s will also be available through “MyPay” at the www.DFAS.mil Web site.

Before filing federal or state tax returns, soldiers should ensure they have all W-2 forms and, if needed, Forms W2-C, which are Corrected Wage and Tax Statements. Soldiers should attach the original W-2 and if needed, the W-2C to their 2002 tax return. Electronic filers (IRS “e-file”) should use the W-2C adjusted amounts when preparing their tax return. Separated soldiers should call Military Pay customer

service, toll-free at (888) PAY-ARMY (729-2769).

In addition to the W-2 for 2002 military wages, soldiers will receive an additional W-2 if they:

- Were paid for a do-it-yourself move
- Participated in the Student Loan

Repayment Program

- Received a payment resulting from a Public Law 220 claim
- Received a payment resulting from an Army Board of Corrections claim

Any of these three conditions will be combined into one additional W-2. These items will not be reflected on soldiers’ final 2002 Leave and Earnings Statements.

Year-end adjustments affected by Combat Zone Tax Exclusion entitlements may not appear on the December end of month LES.

Active duty soldiers’ W-2s will be sent to

Defense Military Pay Offices and Finance Offices for Distribution. Army National Guard military pay and Student Loan Repayment Plan W-2s will be sent to the U.S. Property and Fiscal Offices for distribution.

The USPFO manages and accounts for federally provided funds and property. The W-2s for Army Reserve soldiers and separated active duty soldiers will be mailed to their address of record.

For assistance with Army pay or W-2 problems, soldiers should contact their servicing finance office. If the finance office cannot assist, soldiers

should call the Army Military Pay Office customer service hotline at (888)PAY-ARMY (729-2769).



See Greenback, Page 8

Greenback

From Page 7

Thrift Savings Plan

The open enrollment season for the Thrift Savings Plan is until Dec. 31. This is your opportunity to start the Thrift Savings Plan or change any part of your current plan. This year's open season allows a contribution of up to 8 percent (reported in whole numbers) of your base pay each pay period. If you contribute to the TSP from your base pay, you can also contribute 100 percent of any incentive or special pay (including bonus pay).

How can I get information on my TSP account?

Beginning in 2003, statements will be issued March 31, June 30, Sept. 30 and Dec. 31. In January 2003, if you participate in TSP, you will receive your statement in the mail and will also be able to view it on www.tsp.gov. For subsequent statements, you will need to choose

whether you want to receive future statements in the mail or through your online "MyPay" account through www.DFAS.mil or get access through www.tsp.gov.

What if there is a mistake in the contributions to my account?

If you believe there is a mistake your service must initiate the necessary corrections, whether you are currently employed or have separated from the service.

If your service makes an error, you may also be entitled to earnings lost to your account as a result. Generally, however, your service may not repay lost earning on contributions that it failed to deduct from your pay. Report any errors to your TSP representative or local finance servicing office. If there is a mistake in the allocation of your contributions among the investment funds, you should contact the TSP Service Office. All error corrections (and attributable lost earnings) will be reported on your quarterly participant statement.

Holiday greetings only click away

by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — When the "Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs were suspended last year because of the anthrax mail attacks, Web sites sprung up to give an alternative to people who want to show support to troops during the holiday season.

With the click of a mouse, heartfelt messages have been sent to thousands of deployed troops this holiday season.

"Your bravery and sacrifices are deeply appreciated by this American family, and our flag and the flags of hundreds of other families in our community are flying proudly in your honor," wrote Steve and

Ellie Earnhart from Vandalia, Ohio.

The Earnharts posted that message using <http://anyser-vicemember.navy.mil>, which is the online version of the holiday letter-campaign dubbed "Operation Dear Abby."

The Web site, www.anyser-vicemember.org, is another place where greetings can be read. Anyone can read or post a message for troops.

Allies have also taken the time to address troops.

"You brave souls, march onwards my friends," wrote Maria Lambrinos from Adelaide, Australia. "You are truly God's Army, and we thank you with all our hearts. Stay safe and wishing you a speedy return."

Dining Schedule

Weekday Dining Facilities

A La Carte Facilities

43rd ASG Cheyenne Mtn. Inn (building 1040)
3rd BCT Iron Bde. (building 2061)
3rd ACR CAV House (building 2461)
3rd ACR Butts Army Airfield (building 9612)

Standard Facilities

10th Special Forces Group (A) (building 7481)

Weekday Meal Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed. and Fri.	Thur.
Breakfast 7:30 to 9 a.m.	5:30 to 7 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	noon to 1:30 p.m.
Dinner 5 to 6:30 p.m.	4 to 5:30 p.m.

Week of Dec. 7 to Dec. 13

Exceptions

- Butts Army Airfield Dining Facility serves no dinner meals.
- Cheyenne Mountain Inn breakfast hours are 7 to 9 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- 10th SFG (A) meal hours are the same Monday through Friday. It serves no dinner meal on Fridays.

Saturday, Sunday and Training

Holiday Dining Facilities

43rd ASG Cheyenne Mtn. Inn (building 1040)
3rd BCT Iron Bde. (building 2061)
3rd ACR CAV House (building 2461)

Saturday, Sunday and Training

Holiday Meal Hours

Brunch	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Supper	3 to 5 p.m.

*Family members are cordially invited to dine in
Fort Carson dining facilities.*

If it's too good to be true ...

How to avoid being ripped off, other bad experiences

by Capt Roger J. Ivey
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
Legal Assistance Division

Do you remember when that guy wearing the plaid polyester suit came to your door and offered you 12 years of your favorite rock 'n' roll magazine for only \$1,800?

How about the \$2,800 vacuum that not only cleaned the whole house while you watched, but also cooked breakfast? How about when he (it's always the same guy) offered you the do-it-yourself doctor's education curriculum for only \$800? Better yet, have you ever answered one of those ads offering to show you how to earn \$50,000 a year stuffing envelopes or using your own computer while you watch soaps from your bed? If so, you probably found out that the magazines didn't come, the vacuum burned the eggs, and you only made \$150 and change from the envelope scheme after paying \$300 for the "business training" it required.

As the old adage goes, if it sounds too good to be true, 99.9 percent of the time it is. Still, most of us at some time have made a purchase or signed a contract we cringe about. And, even though there are many laws and consumer protections designed to assist those who have been "taken," they are a poor substitute for not being ripped off in the first place. Remember those other old adages about "an ounce of prevention"... and the one about the "bird in the hand?" Well, they are true.

Don't get scammed

Here are some pearls of wisdom that may be helpful in discerning the truly good deal from the garden-variety scam. Remember the pearls during that rush of adrenaline and excitement created by the man in plaid and his promises, and you will be better off in the long run.

1. If it seems too good to be true, it

usually is.

2. Almost every "get rich quick" scheme won't make you rich, including the lottery.

3. Never be in a hurry, and you are not that special: In other words, in this great land of competition and capitalism, there's almost never a deal you can't sleep on and that you can't get somewhere else. Don't be pressured by the sales pitches that say "limited time offer," "while supplies last," or any other manner of "hurry up, you better sign in the next moment or you'll miss it" language. And, if a salesman says you have been "specially selected" to participate, it's either because 1) he's lying and several million others have been "specially" selected, 2) he thinks you are especially gullible, or 3) both.

4. Educate yourself. Ask questions. Make the salesman prove his claims to you. Any reputable company (and some disreputable ones) will give you time to research their company and products. Get on the Internet, talk to friends and mentors, and research alternatives before you make a decision. You can also ask for customer references.

5. Avoid using allotments. Allotments can be a helpful tool when you are sure the company you are dealing with is reputable, and you are not likely to have trouble ending the allotment in time. Opening and closing allotments takes time, and you may end up sending several months of payments to a company before contract problems are fixed. This is money you are not likely to see again.

6. Never give anyone your bank account information or your social security number, and be cautious in providing your credit card information. This is especially true when dealing with phone solicitors. There are very few

times this information is legitimately needed, and it is very difficult to recover

from the theft of your bank account funds or the use of your personal information.

7. Never sign anything until you are absolutely sure it's the right deal. Some salesmen will ask you to sign a contract and promise to "hold it" until you let them know you really want to do the deal. Guess what ... you are stuck.

There will be no way to prove what the salesman told you when he's got your signature on a written contract saying otherwise. If you want a contract reviewed before you sign it, contact the Fort Carson Legal Assistance Division and arrange for an

attorney consult, before you sign the contract. If a salesman is legit, he will come back for your business.

Common issues

Here are some situations commonly experienced by military members. It is up to you to determine whether you want to be a part of the crowd.

1. Barracks salesmen: Soliciting on military installations is usually unlawful, and most of those doing it are con-artists. Reputable companies follow the rules and have offices.

2. Allotment forms: If the salesman has an allotment form already, he is breaking the law.

3. Sending money to get money or prizes: If you really win something you don't have to pay for it (except for taxes).

4. "Flexible Dollar Builder" life insurance: Life insurance is normally not a savings account. If you are looking for a life insurance annuity, there are many reputable financial institutions offering them. There is no need to trust the guy in plaid at your door.

5. College Level Examination Programs: Should you pay for a CLEP

when you can go to the Education Center and get the same thing for free? Many companies try to pass these off as a way to earn college credit or promotion points.

6. Photo scams: Plans for unlimited photo developing for a set price.

7. Gift clubs: Friends or family may approach you with an idea to have social circles that require money to join (up to \$5,000). They advertise huge returns on the money. They are often illegal pyramid schemes.

What to do if you've been scammed

1. Cancel allotments and stop payments immediately. Obtain records of the total amounts paid to date.

2. Call the company and cancel the contract or

agreement. In some cases involving contracts with uninvited door-to-door salesmen, you can cancel the contract within three days (it should tell you how). Don't be surprised if you can't get in touch with the company; many scam artists give out fake numbers.

3. If you paid by credit card or checking account withdrawal, immediately call the credit card company or bank and tell them you have been the victim of a scam and/or that the bill is disputed. This may limit your loss.

4. Go to the Legal Assistance Office. Fort Carson's Legal Assistance Division can apprise you of your legal rights and remedies, help you file complaints with consumer protection agencies, and, in many cases, assist in the recovery of losses. You may contact the Fort Carson Legal Assistance Division at 526-5572.

The Legal Assistance Division schedules appointments for the following week on the preceding Friday. Appointments are made for Monday and Friday mornings, as well as Wednesdays. Walk-in consultations are available on a first-come, first-served basis on Monday and Friday afternoons.



Induction ...

Brig. Gen. Robert J. Reese, 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson deputy commanding general, awards Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Stewart, 362nd Regiment, 2nd Battalion (Field Artillery), during the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Induction Ceremony Monday at McMahon Theater. Stewart was one of three noncommissioned officers recognized. From right, Samantha Blevins, standing next to spouse, Sgt. Stephen Blevins, 148th Military Police Detachment, 759th Military Police Battalion, 43rd Area Support Group, and Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Tully, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 43rd ASG, middle, were also recognized as outstanding noncommissioned officers and for demonstrating the highest qualities of leadership.



Photo by Spc. Stacy Harris

Community

45th Brigade commander visits troops at Fort Carson

by Staff Sgt. Darren D. Heusel
Task Force 1st Battalion, 180th
Infantry Public Affairs Office,
Oklahoma Army National Guard

Looking every bit the proud papa, 45th Infantry Brigade Commander Brig. Gen. Thomas P. Mancino recently paid a visit to his Oklahoma Army National Guard troops training at Fort Carson and urged them to "keep up the good work."

Mancino said he had an opportunity to come to Fort Carson to observe "the great soldiers" of Task Force 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry gearing up for their six-month deployment to the Sinai Peninsula and to coordinate with post officials, who will be hosting other Oklahoma Guardsmen between now and next summer.

As for the soldiers of Task Force 1st Bn., 180th Inf., Mancino referred to their Multi-National Force and Observers mission to the Sinai as "exciting."

"It's exciting for me because this is the largest deployment for the brigade since Korea and the largest deployment for the state since Desert Shield and Desert Storm," he said. "This is an opportunity for the great soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 180th Inf. to show that they can do the job."

"There's no question they can do the job and this is a great opportunity for them to go over there and perform this very important mission," Mancino said.

Mancino said the brigade has been preparing for a deployment such as the MFO mission for some time and that participating in the Joint Readiness Training Center exercise this past summer at Fort Polk, La., put Oklahoma's Fighting Thunderbirds at an extreme advantage.

"JRTC was certainly good prepa-

ration for us because it made us develop what makes all Army units great, which is small unit leadership ... non-commissioned officer leadership," Mancino said. "Those are the kinds of things and actions that were directed by the NCOs (noncommissioned officers) and the first lieutenants and the privates and the corporals that made us the most successful Guard unit to go through JRTC."

"It's those same kinds of skills and interactions out at these observation posts that the soldiers of Task Force 1st Bn., 180th Inf., are going to be using to get the job done. The training we received at JRTC helped us develop these small unit type actions."

Most of the soldiers from Task Force 1st Bn., 180th Inf. arrived at Fort Carson Oct. 17 and have been undergoing extensive training to prepare them for their MFO mission, which is to monitor a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

The training at Fort Carson includes familiarization with different types of vehicles and aircraft in the region as well as specific markings.

The MFO is an independent, non-United Nations peacekeeping force made up of 10 participating nations. The force was created in 1982 as a result of the 1978 Camp David Accords and the 1979 Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel. The United States is one of the original partners and has provided a battalion-sized force for the mission since its inception.

For the first 19 years, forces rotating to the Sinai were mostly active duty Army units. Since January 2002, Army National Guard units have taken responsibility for the mission. To date, Guard units from Arkansas, Oregon and now Oklahoma have been tasked.

"I think the three brigades from Arkansas, Oregon and Oklahoma have truly been the best example of integration the Army has tried," Mancino said. "It's great to have an active duty headquarters like 7th Infantry Division that works hand-in-hand with our state headquarters in Oklahoma."

"Between the two of them, we're able to achieve all the training and all the resourcing ... I know some time we have to work back and forth, but the end result is we're going to get the soldiers everything they need physically."

The MFO maintains peace and stability in the region by maintaining a presence and observing and reporting activity along the borders between Egypt and Israel.

While in the Sinai, Task Force 1st Bn., 180th Inf. troops will be based at South Camp on the southern tip of the peninsula and will rotate manning 12 remote observation and checkpoint sites within that zone for approximately 20 days at a time.

When not pulling duty at a remote site, soldiers at the base camp will continue honing their skills in marksmanship, first aid and other common tasks.

They will also have an opportunity to continue their education by taking college courses in residence and online. Basic and advanced noncommissioned officer courses will also be offered as well as advanced infantry training.

The Task Force 1st Bn., 180th Inf. soldiers are due to deploy sometime after the first of the year, but Mancino said plans are currently in the works to get the soldiers home for Christmas.

"We're working on plans right now to try to get the soldiers home for



Courtesy photo
Brig. Gen. Thomas P. Mancino,
45th Infantry Division command-
ing general.

the holidays," he said. "I've been on the phone diligently working those initiatives. It's kind of a complex operation because of the different active duty status the 1st Bn., 180th Inf. soldiers are in."

"But, it's a commitment our adjutant general made and supports and I want everyone to know we're going to do our best to try to accomplish that."

As for the remainder of the time spent at Fort Carson, Mancino said he encourages the task force soldiers to maintain their focus on the training at hand.

"I know the soldiers are going to do a great job of representing Oklahoma, the brigade and the 7th Infantry Division to the best of their ability," Mancino said.

Keep turkey sandwiches, other leftovers safe this holiday season

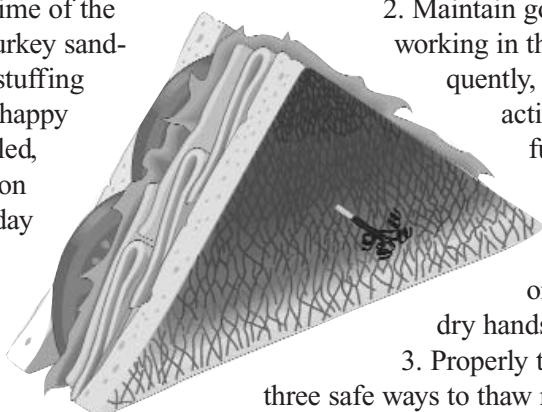
by Spc. Erin Grant
Preventive Medicine Technician
Evans Army Community Hospital

As the holidays approach, food invariably comes to mind. We all enjoy eating the perfectly prepared meats and casseroles and desserts. Even more, we often indulge in another favored pastime of the holiday season — eating leftovers. Turkey sandwiches, pumpkin pie breakfasts and stuffing midnight snacks fill our bellies with happy memories. Unfortunately, if mishandled, the foods that typify the holiday season can cause serious illness. Is that holiday stomachache and nausea from overeating? Possibly, but more likely, the nausea and diarrhea are caused by improperly handled and prepared foods.

The Evans Army Community Hospital Preventive Medicine Careline deals with food sanitation and its effects on our community members. Too often, improperly handled and prepared foods cause foodborne illnesses and ruin holiday celebrations. When preparing those special meals, remember:

1. Minimize contamination. What is contamina-

tion? Contamination is the presence of harmful substances (bacteria, viruses, mold, etc.) in food — anything that shouldn't be there. For example, a common mistake that spreads contamination is to cut raw chicken and then prepare salad on the same cutting board without sanitizing it between uses.



2. Maintain good personal hygiene while working in the kitchen. Wash hands frequently, especially after restroom activities and any other bodily functions (sneezing, playing with hair and blowing nose). Use warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds and use paper towels to dry hands.

3. Properly thaw meat. There are only three safe ways to thaw meat:

- Defrost meat in the refrigerator. Put the meat in a container where juices cannot drip onto other food. Follow the directions on the meat label. Allow adequate space for air circulation in the refrigerator.

- Thaw meat in the sink under cool running tap water. Use a container that allows inflow of clean water and outflow of circulated water.

- Use your microwave to thaw meat. Use the microwave to defrost items as part of the cooking process.

4. Cook foods to the proper internal cooking temperature. A safe internal temperature for all foods, especially leftovers, is 165 F.

5. Keep food stored at the proper temperatures. Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. Keep refrigerator temperatures at or below 40 F.

6. Properly cool food. Use the refrigerator, but break the food into smaller pieces. A deep pan filled with ice water is an ideal cooling device — you can dip the hot dish in like a bath to cool the food faster.

7. Use a clean, calibrated food thermometer which costs less than \$3. You can find them at most supermarkets. When taking the temperature, insert the thermometer into the thickest part of the food.

If your children help you in the kitchen, teach them what you know about proper food handling. With a little foresight, the right equipment and the proper techniques, you and your family can spend your time enjoying the holiday meals, not recovering from them. If you have food sanitation questions, contact Evans Army Community Hospital Environmental Health at 526-2939.

Community Events

Fort Carson

The Fort Carson Thrift Shop is now distributing funds to nonprofit organizations and qualifying individuals. The following are the qualifications for individuals seeking educational grants:

Must be a military family member (active or retired) and needs to have proof of enrollment from attending school.

All requests must be submitted in writing by Jan. 23, 2003, to the Thrift Store, building 1008 on Wetzel during regular business hours or mailed to:

**Fort Carson Thrift Store
P.O. Box 13812
Fort Carson, CO 80913**

The Thrift Store will be closed Dec. 19 to Jan. 7 for Christmas. For more information, call Gail Olsen at 526-5966.

Santa at the Elkhorn — Santa will be at the Elkhorn Conference Center Dec. 10 from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be free pictures with Santa, face painting and cookie decorating. The price is \$2, but children under 6 are admitted free. For more information, call 576-6646.

Project Santa — Every year the Ironhorse Sertoma Club and the Fort Carson Officers' Wives' Charitable Association put together Project Santa to bring holiday cheer to children at Fort Carson. Along with the Enlisted Spouses' Charitable Organization and the Directorate of Community Activities, many people on post are dedicated to this worthy project that ensures less fortunate children a merry Christmas.

Command Financial noncommissioned officers within each unit are currently gathering information about families who may be in need during the holidays. There will be boxes placed throughout post to collect toy donations. Toys should be new, unwrapped and age appropriate for children up to the age of 17. The toys should range between \$10 to \$15. Another great way to participate in Project Santa is to make a monetary donation and the committee will purchase the gifts.

For more information, call Theresa at 576-1767 or Jessica at 576-1865.

The Directorate of Logistics will be holding its annual holiday party Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Most offices will be closed during this time, however, sections staffed by contract personnel will remain open. For more information, contact Connie Griffin at 526-5504.

EEO training — The Fort Carson Equal Employment Opportunity Office continues with its presentations of human relations topics for civilian employees. In December, they will offer classes in "The Adventure of Motivation" showing the video "Rocky Dec. 11. There will also be a special video session Dec. 18 about assertiveness.

The video Classes will be conducted from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Cedar Room at the Family Readiness Center (next to the commissary).

For further information, contact your training coordinator, or call EEO at 526-4413.

TSP Open Season — The Thrift Savings Plan Open Season has begun. If you are a Federal Employees Retirement System employee, you may elect to contribute up to 13 percent of your salary. If you are a Civil Service Retirement System employee, you may elect to contribute up to 8 percent of your salary. The annual Internal Revenue Service has also increased to \$12,000.

To make a TSP Open Season election, go to www.abc.army.mil. If you would like to make your election or change through the automated telephone system, call (877) 276-9287 and follow the prompts.

Evans Army Community Hospital closures — All clinical areas and the pharmacy will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 and Jan. 1, 2003, in observance of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays. Services at the pharmacy will be extremely limited Dec. 31. Expect a long wait for prescriptions.

Most of the Evans Army Community Hospital Clinics will be closing at noon Dec. 20 for staff activities. The Main Hospital Outpatient Pharmacy will close at 2 p.m. to allow the pharmacy personnel to participate in similar activities.

The Evans Emergency Department and Primary Acute Care Clinic 526-7838 will be open Dec. 20 to see emergency and acute patients. The Emergency Department will be

Holiday Spending Tips

**Army Community Service
Financial Readiness Office**

Only 19 days until Christmas. Some of us will probably resort to pulling out the credit card. Americans make purchases with credit in record numbers during the holiday season. Unfortunately, most of the things we will purchase this holiday season will not last as long as the payments and additional debt we will incur purchasing them. What does "buy now pay later" really cost? The average American household has about \$8,000 in credit card debt. Most of us pay an average interest rate of 17 percent, which means most people pay around \$1,400 a year in interest. Before you make your next impulse purchase decide what you are willing to sacrifice to in order to take it home today. Below are tips that will allow you to gradually reduce and subsequently eliminate your debt.

Tips

Contact your credit card company — Ask for a lower interest rate. Most people do not realize how simple this is. A lower interest rate will save you hundreds of dollars in interest each year.

Think before spending — Ask yourself if the purchase is necessary. Separate needs from wants. Separate pleasure from priority. Prioritize your spending each month. Always take care of your necessities before spending on the unnecessary.

Know when the best time to buy is — Do you know the best time to buy a car or air conditioner? ACS has a list of bargains — what to buy and when. Knowing when to buy can save you hundreds — even thousands of dollars.

Budget — Do you know where your money goes? Are you saving for emergencies and retirement? On the other hand, do you spend all your money and hope things work out. If you budget your money each month you will be able to manage your debt and your spending.

For a detailed explanation of these tips and many more, attend one of our Frugal Cooking classes in February or contact the Army Community Service, Financial Readiness section at 526-4590.

open all other holidays for emergencies.

JCAHO survey — The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of Evans Army Community Hospital on Fort Carson Tuesday to Dec. 13.

The purpose of the survey is to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. The results will be used to determine whether and the conditions under which accreditation should be awarded the organization.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representatives at the time of the survey. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and should

be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins and indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Address requests to:

**Office of Quality Monitoring
Joint Commission on
Accreditation of Healthcare
Organizations**

**One Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181**

The Joint Commission will acknowledge requests in writing or by telephone and inform the organization of the request for any interview. The organization will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time and place of the meeting.

Around town

Santa's Ice Cream Shoppe — The Armed Services YMCA, located at 2190 Jet Wing Drive, will hold a Santa's Ice Cream Shoppe Dec. 15 for military families only. The event will be from 1 to 3:30 p.m. and is for children ages 3 to 10. This event will be filled with crafts, ice cream and a special visit from Santa Claus. For more information or to sign up, call 622-9622.

Retiree Appreciation Day

Fort Carson Retiree Appreciation Day will be Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Elkhorn Conference Center.

The appreciation day activities are open to all retirees and their family members. Active duty military, Reserve, National Guard, Department of the Army civilians

and family members are also encouraged to attend as there is important information on pre-retirement planning.

A free continental breakfast will be served from 9 to 10 a.m., followed by an information fair.

For more information, call 526-2840 or 526-5709.



**Army Community Service
Family Readiness Center**
526-4590
Hosted by your ACS Financial Readiness Office

Dec. 17
6 to 7:30 p.m.

Couples

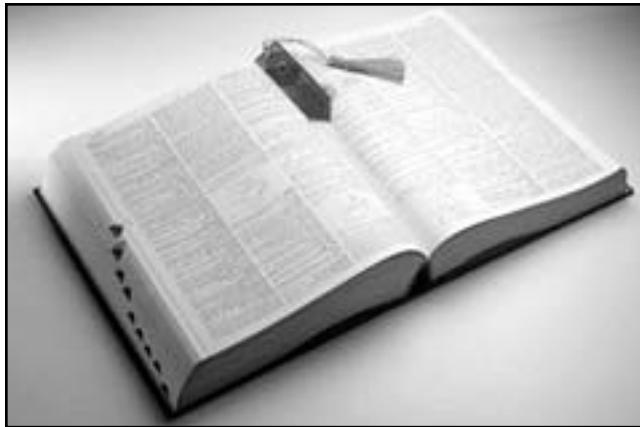
money

Complimentary
"Couples & Money"
sessions for all
Attendees!

This is a seminar you don't want to miss!

- Have productive conversations about money
- Identify your money personality

Limited space, please register early.
Childcare available.
For details call ACS at 719-528-4590



Chapel

Chapel Holiday Schedule — Advent Communal Penance Service (Catholic): Dec. 17, 7 p.m., confessions and Sacrament of Reconciliation at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day — Dec. 24, 5 p.m., Children's Mass (Catholic) at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Protestant). Dec. 25, Midnight, Midnight Mass (Catholic), Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Dec. 25, 10 a.m., Christmas Day Mass (Catholic) at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m., Christmas Day Lutheran Communion Service at Provider Chapel.

Holy Day Masses — Feast of Mary, Mother of God: Dec. 31, 7 p.m.; Jan. 1, 10 a.m., New Year's Day Mass (Catholic).

Couples — A new time of study and conversation for young couples begins at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel, building 1500 (next to the post exchange), Sundays at 10 a.m. This group is for couples with or without children. Child-care is provided free. If your spouse is deployed, please come — this is for you. The group will discuss and explore topics of interest both in and outside the Bible. For information, call the Soldiers' Memorial Chapel at 526-8011.

Faith Weaver — Helping families build faith. Faith Weaver is offered every Sunday at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Faith Weaver is a traditional Protestant Sunday School for all ages, including adults. The service meets at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday at the chapel. For more information, call 526-5625.

Chapel Schedule

ROMAN CATHOLIC					
Day	Time	Service	Chapel	Location	Contact Person
M-W-F	noon	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Chap. Stahl/526-5769
Tues., Wed., Thurs.	noon	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Stahl/526-5769
Saturday	5 p.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Stahl/526-5769
Sunday	8 a.m.	Mass	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Stahl/526-5769
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Stahl/526-5769
Sunday	10:45 a.m.	CCD	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Jim Sciegel/526-5744
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Chap. Stahl/526-7386
Sunday	12:15 p.m.	Mass	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Stahl/526-5769
EASTERN ORTHODOX					
Sunday	8 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Olson/526-5772
PROTESTANT					
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Chap. Simmons/526-7387
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Satterfield
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Contemporary	Veterans'	Magrath & Titus	Chap. Fox/526-4416
Sunday	11 a.m.	Protestant	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Kincaid/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Prot./Gospel	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Lee/526-4469
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Dr. Scheck/526-5626
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Pair/526-2811
Sunday	6:30 p.m.	PYOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Ms. Scheck/524-1166
LUTHERAN					
Sunday	10:45 a.m.	Protestant	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Bauer/526-5279
JEWISH					
For information and a schedule of Jewish Sabbath services, call the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel at 333-2636.					
WICCA					
2nd and 4th Tuesday	6:30 p.m.		Spiritual Fitness Center	Barkeley & Ellis	Costantino-Mead/ (303) 428-7703

For additional information, contact the Installation Chaplain's Office, building 1550, at 526-5209. Normally, free child-care is available during on-post worship services.

Daily Bible readings: In order to assist in regular scripture reading, the following scriptures are recommended. These scriptures are part of the common daily lectionary which is designed to present the entire Bible over a three-year cycle.

Today — Psalms 5 & Revelations 15-17
Saturday — Psalms 6 & Revelations 18-20
Sunday — Psalms 7 & Revelations 21-22
Monday — Psalms 8 & Isaiah 1-3
Tuesday — Psalms 9 & Isaiah 4-6
Wednesday — Psalms 10 & Isaiah 7-9
Thursday — Psalms 11 & Isaiah 10-12

The Army Cycle Of Prayer — Each week the Office of the Army Chief of Chaplains highlights Army units, the Army at large, the nation and religious organizations to focus prayer. You are invited to join with the chaplain community and pray for these individuals and organizations. Please pray this week for the following:

Unit: For the soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers of the U.S. Army Reserve, 8th U.S. Army Headquarters, Seoul.

Army: For Sandra Pack, assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller and for the military and civilian staff who support this agency's activities.

State: For all the soldiers and families from the state of Rhode Island. Pray also for Gov. Lincoln Almond, the state legislators and local officials of the "Ocean State."

Nation: For the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth and the department's mission to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands.

Religious: For soldiers of all faiths stationed around the world, especially those deployed away from family and friends during this holiday season.

For more information on the Army Cycle of prayer, visit the program's Web page at www.usarmychaplain.com.

Chaplain's Corner

The message behind Our Lady of Guadalupe story

**Commentary by Chap. (Maj.) Allen Stahl
Soldiers' Memorial Chapel Catholic Pastor**

The ancient story of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to Dec. 9, 1531.

It is believed by many that Mary visited a poor Aztec Indian named Juan Diego.

She asked that a church be built upon that site and as proof of her appearance, Juan Diego will present himself before the local bishop with this request. What is also unusual is the fact that the image of Mary appears upon his tilma with roses that never blossom in December. Scientists have examined this cloak (tilma) and have not found anything like it in the world. They cannot explain how the image was made and why the material of the cloak has not disintegrated with time.

But what is the message behind this most unusual story? What may it say to us who live in such a modern age? First of all, God uses many means to help overcome evil in this world. Often it seems that he uses ordinary people living ordinary lives. He used an unknown Jewish girl, Mary, to bring forth a great hope to humankind in Jesus. He used Juan Diego to help bring a message and a great shrine into being. He used a poor woman, Mother Theresa of Calcutta, to bring great hope and love to the outcasts of India. He also wants to use us to make this world a better place in which to live. God has more hope for us, more faith in us, and more love for us than we have in ourselves. He knows each and every one of us can make a difference. We must believe in God, but we are called to believe in ourselves. Yes! I can make a difference.

If you would look at Mary's face upon the tilma, you would notice her mestiza face. She has the face of the mixed races of the new world. She is a sign to the Americas that men and women of all colors, ethnicities and backgrounds can live together in mutual respect and harmony. The newness of the so-called new world would lie in the reality that the Americas would become the melting pot of many people, both native and foreign. We are a part of that melting pot. Each of us can trace our histories back to Europe, Asia, Africa or the indigenous people of this continent. God's dream is that the Americas would be a great sign to peoples throughout the world of how a mixed people could live together without losing their particular traditions, customs and way of life.

The encounter between Mary and Juan Diego happened during one of the darkest and most painful periods of history on this continent. Millions of Indians were forced into slavery. Greedy, cruel men followed the early discoverers. Yet in this darkness God sends a light. Somehow he touched the hearts and minds of both the Spanish conquerors and Aztec Indians. In time the Spaniards rediscovered something that was lost to them — that all are created equal.

Almost 2000 years ago, Mary acknowledged what God could do in her life even that he had to power to "to lift up those who are lowly." (Luke 1:52) God still has that power. When we are low, he will lift us up whether it be our spirit or the condition we find ourselves. And because we are made in the image and likeness of God, we like Mary, Juan Diego and Mother Theresa, are called by God to help lift up the lowly we find near us.

Chapel

Lutheran worship — The Lutheran worship service meets at Provider Chapel at 10:45 a.m. Sundays. While the congregation uses The Lutheran Book of Worship (the "green book"), the worship follows the historic form and substance of Holy Communion as handed on through the years in the liturgical tradition. The Eucharist will be offered weekly. All members of the Mountain Post Team who are of the Lutheran faith, those interested in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, or those who prefer traditional worship, are cordially invited to attend. If you have questions, please call Chap. (Maj.) John Bauer at 526-0480 or Chap. (Capt.) Leif Espeland at 526-5772.

Protestant Sunday School 2002 — Soldiers' Memorial Chapel is sponsoring a new Sunday adventure each week at 9:30 a.m. Children will enter the world of firelight crafts, activities, drama and building new relationships, while experiencing the world of the Bible. Children must be at least 4 years old to register. Registration is ongoing Sunday mornings at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Volunteer positions are available. For information, contact Dennis Scheck, 526-5626.

GOBBLE UP

Carson community celebrates Thanksgiving holiday

by Spc. Stacy Harris
Mountaineer staff

While many people spent their weekend enjoying turkey, dressing, pumpkin pie and many other foods and activities associated with Thanksgiving, members of the Fort Carson community were busy this past week with activities to make this a wonderful holiday for everyone.

Fort Carson soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team began preparing the traditional holiday feast Monday to feed about 6,000 Colorado Springs citizens free of charge Thanksgiving Day.

This event was part of a 13-year tradition of participating in the Salvation Army's Annual Thanksgiving Community Holiday Dinner. About three tons of birds, 275 gallons of mashed potatoes and 1,440 pounds of green beans were transported to five different serving sites.

In addition, Fort Carson participated in the Thanksgiving Basket Giving Tuesday, at Prussman Chapel. More than 33 boxes — filled with canned goods, oranges, apples, cake and other Thanksgiving goodies — were given to local churches from Fort Carson and Colorado Springs, to distribute to needy families around the area.

"This is the 24th year we have given 30 or more baskets to needy families both on- and off-post," said Sgt. 1st Class Gary Thomas, senior deacon, Mountain Post Military Lodge number 26, and Thanksgiving Basket Giving chairman.

In addition, for those who didn't feel like cooking or stayed around town for the holiday, the Fort Carson cooks prepared a Thanksgiving meal at the dining facilities for active duty soldiers, retirees, guests and family members.

The menu for the soldiers, retirees, guests and family members included roast turkey, sweet potatoes, vegetables and much more, all the way to pumpkin, pecan and apple pie for dessert.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tami Lambert
Soldiers, retirees, guests and family members were invited to spend Thanksgiving at Fort Carson Dining Facilities.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tami Lambert
Baked ham was one of the entrees served at Thanksgiving meal.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tami Lambert
Pfc. Belle Lee prepares corn on the cob during Thanksgiving dinner at the 43rd Area Support Group Dining Facility. The 43rd ASG DFAC was named the Best Holiday Dining Facility, and was presented with a trophy from Maj. Gen. Robert Wilson, commanding general, Fort Carson and 7th Infantry Division.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tami Lambert
1st Sgt. R.G. Patterson, A Company, 52nd Engineer Battalion, dishes out food during the Thanksgiving meal at 43rd Area Support Group Dining Facility. The 43rd ASG DFAC served 506 meals to soldiers, family members, and retirees.



Photo by Spc. Stacy Harris
Pfc. Jason Lunnermon, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, hands a turkey to Pvt. Toddy Saunders, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, Monday while unloading a truck full of birds. The turkeys were for the Salvation Army's Annual Thanksgiving Community dinner, to be served Thanksgiving Day. The Fort Carson cooks prepared the dinner to feed about 6,000 Colorado Springs citizens free of charge.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tami Lambert
Maj. Gen. Robert Wilson, commanding general, Fort Carson and 7th Infantry Division, presented Sgt. First Class Karl Lester, dining facility manager, and Col. Sharon Duffy, commander, 43rd Area Support Group, with the Best Holiday Dining Facility trophy on Thanksgiving Day.



Photo by Spc. Stacy Harris
Sgt. 1st Class Gary Thomas, senior deacon, Mountain Post Military Lodge number 26, and chairman of the Thanksgiving Basket Giving, left, hands a basket with a turkey and other holiday foods to Fredrick Blue, member of the Usher Board for Prussman Chapel, who accepted the basket on behalf of a needy family on Fort Carson.



Scrooge

December 14, 2002

Showtimes are 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
at McMahon Theater



This is a Free Show

This event brought to you by the DCA Cultural Group



Storytime

Critters from A to Z

Grant Library
Bldg. 1528, 4950 Flint Street
Fort Carson
719-526-2350

Every Wednesday
10:30 to 11 am
18 Sep 02 to 14 May 03



Smith Woodcraft Center

Bldg. 2426 Wetzel Ave.
Fort Carson
719-526-3487

If you enjoy working with your hands
and love creating things with wood,
this is your place to be!

Hours of Operation

Mon - Tues Closed
Wed - Fri 1 - 8:30 pm
Sat - Sun 9 am - 4:30 pm



Better Watch Out! Better Not Pout! Santa's Coming to Town, at the Elkhorn

Tuesday, 10 December 2002
4 pm - 7 pm

Elkhorn Catering & Conference Center
is located on Fort Carson at
building 7300 Woodfill Rd.

For more information about reservations
please call: 576-6646

Fort Carson's Holiday Village

Holidays in the Rockies

5 - 7 December 2002

For more information, please call

719-526-4494

or visit us at

www.ftcarsonmwr.com

Live Reindeer!!!

With Elf Handlers Telling Interactive Stories
Saturday, 7 Dec, 1 - 5 pm

Free!!!

Transportation to the Parade of Lights!!!
Saturday, 7 December
The Bus departs the Fort Carson Post Field House,
Bldg. 1829 Specker Ave at 5:45 pm

Presented by



Fort Carson
Family Housing, LLC

FORT CARSON'S HUNTER'S EDUCATION CLASS SCHEDULE



OUTDOOR RECREATION COMPLEX
BLDG. 2429, SPECKER AVE, FORT CARSON
719-526-2083

\$10. PER CLASS. ALL CLASSES START AT
5 PM AND RUN THROUGH 9 PM UNLESS
INDICATED OTHERWISE DURING THE FIRST
CLASS MEETING.

ALL CIVILIANS MUST ENTER FORT CARSON THROUGH
GATE 1 (MAIN GATE) OFF OF HIGHWAY 115

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR REGISTRATION
PLEASE CONTACT THE FORT CARSON
OUTDOOR RECREATION COMPLEX
719-526-2083

2003 CLASS DATES

JANUARY	21-22-23	AUGUST	5-6-7
FEBRUARY	18-19-20	AUGUST	12-13-14
MARCH	11-12-13	AUGUST	19-20-21
MARCH	18-19-20	AUGUST	26-27-28
MARCH	25-26-27	SEPTEMBER	2-3-4
APRIL	22-23-24	SEPTEMBER	9-10-11
MAY	20-21-22	SEPTEMBER	30-OCTOBER 1-2
JUNE	24-25-26	NOVEMBER	4-5-6
JULY	22-23-24	DECEMBER	2-3-4

Sports & Leisure

From the sidelines

Army-Navy football game carries on 103 years of pigskin tradition

**Commentary by Bill Scharton
Mountaineer staff**

The 103rd playing of the Army-Navy football game is set for 10:20 a.m. Saturday at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. Army leads the overall series by the count of 49-46-7. The game will be televised by CBS and Armed Forces Television and can be heard on Armed Forces Radio and CBS/Westwood One.

Army vs. Navy

In my opinion, it is a fall gridiron classic. Always has been, always will be. Here's why.

The game is what amateur athletics is supposed to be all about — played for the love of the game.

The seniors who play in this game probably will be playing in their last tackle football game. Think about this. More than likely, these guys have been playing tackle football every fall for the past 10 years. This will be the final time they will play the game in pads and helmet. An important aspect of their life comes to an abrupt halt on Saturday.

It is no wonder this game is always fun, exciting and dramatic. Knowing it is their final game, the seniors give it their best shot. They want to leave the game with the sweet smell of success. The underclass teammates, knowing it is the last game for the seniors, go all out to win the game for the graduating class.

On top of all this, the game is against your biggest service academy rival. The winner will have bragging rights for at least a year. If you are a senior

and you are fortunate enough to win your final game, you live the rest of your life knowing you were victorious in your last tackle football game.

When I was a child, I watched the Army-Navy game every fall, usually with my dad. Generally, I had no particular favorite. My dad served in the Navy, so I think he leaned in that direction most of the time.

The glory years of Army football (1944-45-46) happened before I was

born (just barely). So my dad was the first person to tell me about Army's "Mr. Inside" (Felix "Doc" Blanchard) and "Mr. Outside" (Glenn Davis).

The dynamic duo led Army to back-to-back national championships with Blanchard winning the Heisman Trophy in 1945 and Davis in 1946.

Then in the 1960s, Navy had two Heisman Trophy winners of their own in a span of four years. In 1960, halfback Joe Bellino (the Winchester Rifle) became the first Middle to win the prestigious award.

In 1963, quarterback Roger "the Dodger" Staubach captured the Heisman Trophy. Following his four year Navy commitment, Staubach signed a professional contract with Dallas and proceeded to guide the Cowboys to a pair of Super Bowl championships.

There may not be another national championship or Heisman Trophy winner at Army or Navy. But this

does not matter.

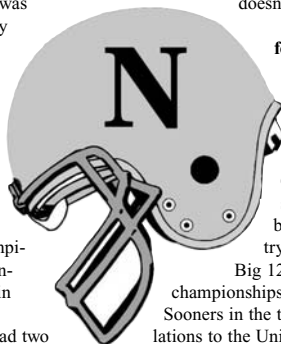
What does matter is that they get to continue to compete on the gridiron. It is as valuable, if not more so in some ways, than the classroom experience. Indelible leadership qualities are gained here and will last a lifetime, leadership qualities that will be used often when they become officers in the armed services.

Army-Navy football on Pearl Harbor Day. It doesn't get much better than this.

While on the subject of college football, a hearty congratulations to all three Division I college football teams in the state of Colorado. Once again, the Air Force Academy, Colorado State University and the University of Colorado will be playing in post-season bowl games. Prior to the bowl game, the CU Buffs will be trying to become the first team in

Big 12 history to win back-to-back championships when they take on the Oklahoma Sooners in the title game Saturday. Also, congratulations to the University of Northern Colorado. The Bears will be playing Saturday in the semifinals of the NCAA Division II post-season football tournament.

If you like college hockey, this weekend provides an opportunity to see one of the best rivalries in all of college hockey. It is Colorado College against the University of Denver. Friday night's game takes place in Denver and the Saturday night contest will be played at the World Arena in Colorado Springs. Both teams currently are ranked in the top 10 in the nation and this makes the home-and-home series even more exciting.



3-on-3 basketball, racquetball tournaments held

**Story and photos by Bill Scharton
Mountaineer staff**

McKibbin Physical Fitness Center was the site last week for a 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

Seven teams competed for the overall title and two of the seven teams also played for a separate "over 30" crown.

The overall winner was the East Coast Ballas team. They battled back through the loser's bracket and defeated 10th Group twice to earn the overall championship banner.

Members of the East Coast Ballas team were Michael Bridgeman, Jason Dreckett, Ontario Washington and Lionel Jacobs.

The "over 30" title contest featured the Trojans against Old School. The Trojans used a stifling defense and mustered up enough offense to come away with the victory.

Members of the Trojans title team were Stan Henry, Leroy Bogan, James Hawkins and George Smith.

A racquetball tournament also took place prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. In the men's combined division A/B tournament, Mike Hernandez captured first place, Joe Sullivan placed second and Shawn Eccles came in third. Shirley Morris won the women's division.



Mollie Eck and daughter Madison were cheering for husband/dad George Eck last week at the 3-on-3 hoops tournament.



Steve Siler, 10th Group, battles George Eck, Dawgs, for a rebound during the 3-on-3 hoops tournament last week at McKibbin Physical Fitness Center.



Photo by Spc. Jon Christoffersen

Championship game ...

A member of the 10th Combat Support Hospital team tries to outrun a player from Services Battery, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery during the intramural flag football championship game Tuesday night at the Outdoor Sports Complex. Services Battery, 3rd Bn., 29th FA came from behind to capture the 2002 intramural flag football title by the score of 19-6.

Intramural basketball season to begin soon

by Bill Scharton
Mountaineer staff

Intramural basketball league games get under way next week. Each team played a non-league contest this week.

A Christmas tournament will be held if enough teams are interested, according to Al Gambala, intramural sports director. If interested, contact Gambala at 526-6630.

Gambala also said he needs referees, scorers and timers for intramural basketball games. Call Gambala at 526-6630 if interested.

The intramural office has a new location. It is now located on the east side of the Post Physical Fitness Center.

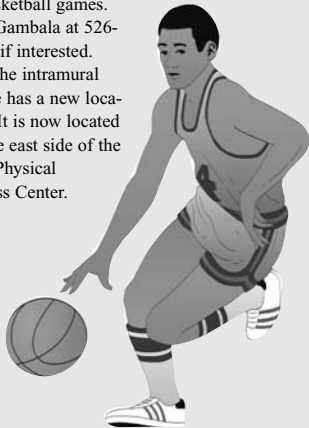


Photo by Bill Scharton

Tourney champs ...

The East Coast Ballas team won the overall title at the 3-on-3 basketball tournament last week at McKibbin Physical Fitness Center. Team members are: (front row, left to right) Michael Bridgeman, Jason Drecketts, Ontario Washington and (back row) Lionel Jacobs.



Photos by Bill Schariton

Austin Coleman, 35, a member of the Carson Middle School Eagles 7th grade boys basketball team, drives to the hoop against Ellicott Middle School.



Champions ...

Carson Middle School, 7th Grade boys basketball coach Mark Lee gives instructions to his troops prior to the second half of action against Ellicott Middle School here Monday. The Eagles clinched first place in the Mountain View Middle School League Monday with a 27-9 victory over Ellicott.

Enjoy local holiday festivities



Photo by Nel Lampe

Katie Kelley talks to Santa about her Christmas list during her visit to the North Pole.

by Nel Lampe

Mountaineer staff

Christmas can be a difficult time when families are away from home for the first, or eighth time, for that matter. It can be especially hard if the soldier is away and school, work schedules or budgets make it impossible for the rest of the family to be with grandma or grandpa.

Maybe it would be helpful under those circumstances to find activities to participate in; perhaps start a new family tradition of your own.

There are many holiday activities in Pueblo, Denver and the Pikes Peak area, some of them free, low cost, and others on the higher end of the scale. A variety of activities and costs are listed below.

Free

Fort Carson's Holiday Village is open through Sunday at the Post Physical Fitness Center. There's a community Christmas tree, hay rides, food vendors, a bake sale and children's activities. The village is open from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. today and from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday.

Joyrides holds its first holiday event Sunday from noon until 8 p.m. and Dec. 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. Activities include a live nativity scene, choirs, dance performances, craft

bazaar, marshmallow roast and reindeer games. JoyRides will be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots drive and Santa will be available for pictures. Holiday activities are free; tickets will be sold for rides. The park is decorated for the holiday.

North American Aerospace Defense Command tracks Santa every Christmas. Log on to the Web site www.noradsanta.com and check out the holiday music, learn about Aaron Carter's visit at NORAD, the history of NORAD tracking Santa and track Santa yourself on Christmas Eve.

The historic river walk of Pueblo is decorated in holiday lights every day through the holidays. The river walk is along the Arkansas River in downtown Pueblo. There's no admission charge for the walk, call (719) 595-0242.

"Holiday Lights" at the Fine Arts Center is a display of live trees decorated by community organizations, businesses and schools. Opening festivities include entertainment, tree displays, snacks and games. Holiday Lights opens Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.. This day is free to the public. There are holiday family films and children's activities which carry a small admission fee. The Fine Arts Center has free entry on Saturdays.

"Winter Wonders," is a 45-minute planetarium program at the Air Force Academy which describes traditional holiday and winter solstice celebrations around the world. The free program is Monday through Friday at 3 and 4 p.m. through Jan. 3. The planetarium is closed Dec. 24 to 26 and New Year's Day. Call 333-2779 for information.

Southeast Family Center Armed Services YMCA has a Christmas Eve brunch for military families Dec. 24, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2190 Jet Wing Dr. Brunch is open to military families only; reservations at 622-9622.

Santa's Ice Cream Shoppe at the YMCA, 2190 Jet Wing Dr., for military families children ages 3 to 10, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 15, There'll be ice cream, crafts and a visit from Santa.

Call 622-9622 for a reservation.

The mountain town of Georgetown hosts its 42nd annual Christmas Market celebration Saturday and Sunday and Dec. 14 and 15. The Victorian-era mining town is a great setting for the European-style Christmas Market. There's no admission charge, and entertainment, hay rides and holiday music take place.

"Festival of Lights" parade is in downtown Colorado Springs for the 18th year. The parade is Saturday at 5:50 p.m. Thousands of lights decorate the floats in this festive parade. Call 526-5366 to sign up for free bus transportation from post.

Free activities are at Pioneers Museum all day before the Festival of Lights parade from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday, along with entertainment; free cider at 5:30 p.m. Call 385-5990 for more information.

Christkindlmarket, a German-style Christmas Market is at the Denver Pavillions, near the 16th Street Mall, through Dec. 22. The hours are Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays from noon until 7 p.m. Authentic German Christmas Market-type goods, such as lace and nutcrackers are sold, as well as German food and hot spiced wine.

Yule log hunt at Palmer Lake is Dec. 15 at 1 p.m. at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. The traditional search for the yule log is free.

Performance of an original Christmas Musical Program at 1625 8th St., Sunday at 9:30 and 11 a.m. The show "Look for the Star," uses old Christmas favorites tunes. Admission is free, call 633-4659 for information.

The Denver Civic Center is lit dramatically during the holiday season with 20,000 red and green lights.

Denver's "Parade of Lights" is today at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 6 p.m. in downtown Denver.

Almost free

Seven Falls is lighted each year,

See Holiday activities, Page 28



Photo by Nel Lampe

Seven Falls cañon is colorfully decorated for the holiday season.



Photo by Nel Lampe

Last year's Holiday Village included lots of lights and decorations.

Holiday season



Places to see in the Pikes Peak area.

Dec. 6, 2002

Holiday activities

From Page 27

and from Dec. 19 to 29, 5 to 9 p.m., except for Christmas Eve, can be visited by making a \$2 donation to “Christmas Unlimited” charity. Thousands of lights and several scenes set the holiday scene along the cañon leading to the falls. Souvenirs and refreshments are available for purchase. Seven Falls in holiday lights is open the whole month of December, but costs \$6 for military and \$4.50 for ages 6 to 15 except on the dates mentioned above.

The Air Force Band of the Rockies presents its Christmas Concert Dec. 15 in the World Arena at 3 p.m. Tickets are free but required for entry and are available at the World Arena Box Office or Ent Credit Union offices. This is a free event but parking is \$5 at the World Arena.

Santa will be at the Elkhorn Center Dec. 10 from 4 to 7 p.m. Entrance is \$2 per person at the door, children under 6 enter free. There’s a free picture with santa, cookie decorating, face painting and snacks.

\$25 or much less

Miramont Castle in Manitou Springs celebrates Victorian Christmas and Saturday, Sunday and Dec. 14 and 15. The castle is decorated in Christmas lights and Victorian style. There will be cider and cookies served. Admission is \$5 for adults.

Denver has an outdoor ice skating rink in Skyline Park on the 16th Street Mall through the New Year. Admission is \$5 and \$2; \$3 for skates.

Cut your own Christmas tree. Permits to cut a Christmas tree will be sold by the Pikes Peak Ranger District office, 602 S Weber St. through Dec. 18. The cutting area is near Woodland Park. Permits are \$10 each, call 636-1602 for information. A map and cutting rules will be furnished with the permits.

“Twilight Frontier Christmas” is at the Rock Ledge living history site near the entrance to the Garden of the Gods on 30th Street. The event is Dec. 14 and 15, from 4 to 8 p.m. and includes wagon rides, music, activities and St. Nicholas. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. Adults cost \$5, teens \$3 and \$1 for ages 6 to 12.

“ElectriCrittters” is the lighted holiday show at the Pueblo Zoo today, Saturday and Sunday and Dec. 13, 14, 15 and Dec. 19 through 23 and 26 through 30. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. The Pueblo Zoo is located in City Park, on the west side of Pueblo.

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo has an “Electric Safari” during the holidays with a half million lights and Santa, every night except Christmas Eve through Jan. 1. Hours are 5:30 to 9 p.m., entrance is \$5.50 for adults, \$3.50 for those

under 12, and free for those under 2.

Denver’s Zoo is also lit up for the holidays during December, 5:30 to 9 p.m. “Wildlights” admission is \$7 for adults; ages 4 to 12 is \$4. The Denver Zoo is in City Park, off Colorado Boulevard.

Rosemount Castle in Pueblo is decorated in elaborate Victorian style for the holidays. Tours are available Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults and children 6 to 18 are \$4. The Rosemount closes Dec. 28 and doesn’t reopen until February.

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument celebrates the holidays in 1880s style with “homestead holidays” at the Hornbek Homestead on the grounds Saturday and Sunday. The woodstove will be fired up and the smells of baking in the air. Spinning, weaving and quilting will be demonstrated and children may participate in 1880s activities. There is no additional fee for the homestead activities except for the normal park entrance fee of \$3 per person older than 16. Visitors may also visit the fossil beds and hike the trails. The homestead is on Teller 1, one mile south of the town of Florissant, on U.S. Highway 24 west of Colorado Springs.

Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site near La Junta holds its holiday celebration today and Saturday in 1840s style, including toy making, bonfires and candlelit tours. The fee is \$3.

Victorian Christmas Tours and Teas are at noon and 2 p.m. McAllister House Museum, 423 N. Cascade Ave. Cost is \$15 per person. Reservations are required, call 635-7925. Visitors can tour the house Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, \$5 for adults and \$3 for those over 6.

\$40 and up

Colorado Springs Symphony performs Handel’s “Messiah” today at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m., Pikes Peak Center. Call 633-6698 or 520-SHOW.

The Colorado Springs Symphony presents “A Colorado Winter’s Evening,” includes the music of the season featuring vocal ensemble Five By Design. Performances are Dec. 20 and 21 at 8 p.m. at the Pikes Peak Center with a matinee geared for families Dec. 21 at 2:30 p.m.

Colorado Springs Children’s Chorale “Points of Light for the Holidays,” is Sunday at 3 p.m., in the Pikes Peak Center. Tickets begin at \$10, call 633-3562.

Colorado Springs Chorale: Deck the Hall, Dec. 13, Pikes Peak Center. The holiday performance includes a large hand bell choir and a chorus. Tickets start at \$12, with military discounts; call 520-7469.

“The Nutcracker” ballet at Wasson High School Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., features the International Ballet School. Tickets are \$15 for adults and



Courtesy photo

Miramont Castle is outlined in lights and is decorated in Victorian style during the holidays.

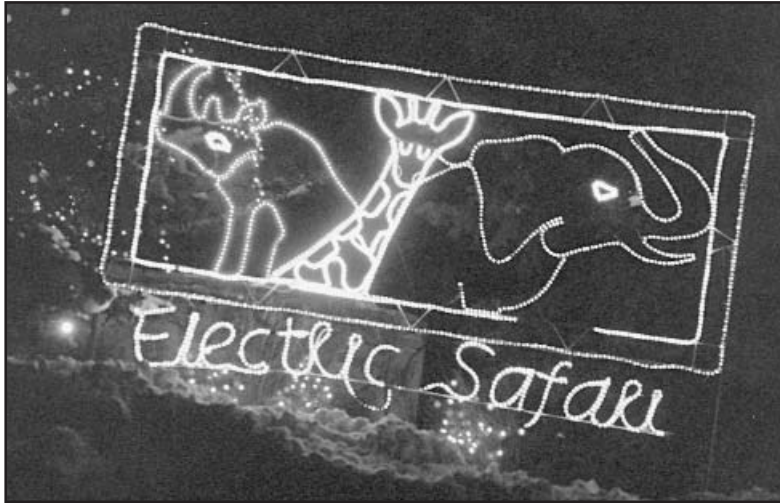


Photo by Nel Lampe

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo’s holiday “Electric Safari” is a popular event.

children are charged \$12, tickets at the door; call 578-1646.

“Christmas Pops on Ice” is Dec. 14, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. This traditional show involves skaters from the Broadmoor Skating Club, ice skating competitors and the Colorado Springs Symphony in this traditional Christmas ice skating show. Tickets are on sale at the World Arena box office, 576-2626.

The Pueblo Symphony features the Pueblo Choral Society in the Christmas portion of Handel’s Messiah at 7:30 p.m. in Hoag Recital Hall on the University of Southern Colorado campus, in northern Pueblo. Tickets are available at the Pueblo Symphony Box Office; call 549-2404. Tickets begin at \$15.

“It’s A Wonderful Life,” a play in two acts, is presented by the Woodmen Valley Chapel today, Sunday and Dec. 12, 13 and 15, with dinner at 6 p.m. and the show following for \$20. Tickets for Monday and Tuesday are available for \$10 for the show only. All seats are reserved, call (866) 464-2626. Dinner and performances are in the Stone Chapel, 350 Chapel Lane, near the Woodmen Valley Chapel. It is east of Interstate 25 on Woodmen, near Tiffany Square.

The Pikes Peak Philharmonic presents A Christmas Offering concert Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. The concert is at Benet Hill Center, 2577 N. Chelton Road. Tickets are available at the door: \$6 for adults, \$12 for a family.

Santa is available through Christmas Eve for last minute visits and wish lists at the North Pole Santa’s Workshop theme park, near the entrance to the Pikes Peak Highway off Highway 24 west. The theme park is open every day except Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 5 p.m., weather permitting. Admission is \$12.95. Go online at www.Santas-colo.com for a \$3 discount coupon.

Simpich Marionettes presents “The Puppet Maker, a Story of Christmas,” at the Broadmoor Little Theatre in the hotel. The show is at 7 p.m., through Dec. 24, Wednesdays through Sundays. Tickets are \$17, call 577-5747.



File photo

Decorated trees in the Broadmoor area light up the night.

Get Out!

Air Force Academy Concerts

The Air Force Academy Concert Series for the upcoming season includes "Shaolin," where theater meets the martial arts, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$24. "Aeros," is Feb. 8, "Swing," March 29, and Lee Greenwood and Sandi Patty, April 12. Call the theater box office at 333-4497.

Free youth symphony concert

The Pueblo Youth Symphony, presents a free performance at 2 p.m. Sunday at Hoag Recital Hall on the campus of University of Southern Colorado, on the north side of Pueblo.

Fine Art Center theater

The next performance in the Fine Arts Center theater series is "Once Upon a Mattress," a musical based on the story of "The Princess and the Pea." The musical opens today, with shows at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and Sundays at 2 p.m. Call 634-5583 for tickets.

Monster Trucks

Monster Trucks are scheduled for the World Arena Jan. 10 to 12. Tickets are \$6.50 for children and \$17.50 for adults. Call 576-2626.

New Year's Eve Celebration

Celebrate the new year with a concert. "A Night in Vienna," with Strauss music, is on tap Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. Call 633-4611 or 520-SHOW for tickets, which start at \$18.

Family Day

A free Family Day of activities is at the Fine Arts Center Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This day is free and open to the public. There will be snacks entertainment and holiday family films. Some activities may have a small charge. The Fine Arts Center is at 60 W. Dale.

Royal Gorge discounts

The Royal Gorge Bridge and Park is raising food for the organization Loaves and Fishes. Through Dec. 25, visitors to the park will receive a

discount of \$3 for each adult and \$2 per child for each non-perishable food item presented at the ticket booth. The bridge is about 12 miles west of Cañon City, off Highway 50 west.

Kwanzaa 2002

Kwanzaa celebrates the history, culture, philosophy and achievements of African people living in other parts of the world. The 13th annual Colorado Springs citywide Kwanzaa celebration is at the Hillside Community Center, 925 S. Institute, Dec. 26 through Jan. 1.

The events are:

Dec. 26, 6 to 7:30 p.m., unity.

Dec. 27, 6 to 7:30 p.m., self-determination

Dec. 28, 6 to 8:30 p.m., Collective work and responsibility and African Marketplace

Dec. 29, 6 to 8:30 p.m., Cooperative economics

Dec. 30, 6 to 7:30 p.m., purpose

Dec. 31 6 to 9 p.m., creativity

Jan. 1, day of meditation.

Pow Wow

The Lone Feather Annual Council Pow Wow is at the Hillside Center Saturday at the corner of Fountain and Institute. The free event begins with a turkey dinner at 4 p.m. The grand entry is at 6 p.m. and the Pow Wow continues until 10 p.m.

Super Saturday

Super Saturday at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry is Dec. 14 and is "Mining Camp Craft Day," from 1 to 4 p.m. Make holiday gifts and learn about the games and toys of mining town families. Make a reservation, the charge is \$3 a person; call 488-0880. The museum is opposite the Air Force Academy north gate.

Donkey Wake-up Call

The Western Museum of Mining and Industry sponsors a Donkey Wake-Up Call from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Join the three donkeys in their morning activities then take a tour of the museum. Admission prices apply. The Donkey Wake-Up Calls are Dec. 27, 28, Jan. 3 and 4 at 9:30 a.m. \$15 admits all individuals living within a household.

Upcoming symphonies

Ray Charles appears with the Colorado Springs Symphony Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, at the Pikes Peak Center at 8 p.m. Call 633-6698 or 520-SHOW

for tickets.

Money museum

The Money Museum at 818 N. Cascade Ave., opens an exhibit Saturday called "Rendezvous with Destiny: the Money of WW II." Money was a major player in World War II. Metal shortages forced countries to alter their coinage. For instance, copper used in the Lincoln penny was diverted to weapon manufacture and a zinc-coated steel penny replaced the copper penny. Other World War II memorabilia is part of the exhibit. The Money Museum is free.

Musical for children

Dragon Tales Live is in Colorado Springs in a musical extravaganza for children. It is in the Colorado Springs World Arena Jan. 16 to 19. Performances are at 7 p.m. Jan. 16 and 17, and in daytime performances Jan. 18 and 19. Tickets start at \$12. Call the box office at 576-2626 for tickets.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance

A Pearl Harbor Remembrance and wreath-laying ceremony and World War II-era plane flybys will be at the Veterans Memorial in Memorial Park at 11 a.m. Sunday. The event is open to the public and is near the corner of Pikes Peak Avenue and Union Boulevard.

Denver theater

Denver Center Attractions' season tickets for the 2003 musical season are for sale. The 2003 season kicks off with "Saturday Night Fever," Feb. 25 to March 9 in The Buell Theatre, followed by "42nd Street," June 24 to July 6. "Oliver" is Aug. 19 to 31, "Urinetown: The Musical," is Sept. 9 to 21, followed by "Oklahoma" Dec. 14 to Jan. 3, 2004. The final production for the season, Jan. 6 to 31, 2004, is Mel Brooks' "The Producers." Starting price for the season ticket is \$130. Call (303) 893-4000 or go online at www.denvercenter.org. The Buell Theatre is in downtown Denver.

Old Colorado City Christmas

Old Colorado City Merchants have an old fashioned family celebration each Saturday from noon until 6 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m., which includes entertainment. Santa Claus is in the log cabin in Bancroft Park and carriage rides are available. Shops are decorated and open until 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturdays until Christmas.

Happenings



Photo by Nel Lampe

Pearl Harbor Day ...

A wreath-laying ceremony and flyby by is at the Veterans Memorial in Memorial Park Saturday at 11 a.m. to commemorate Pearl Harbor. The public is invited.



Program Schedule for Fort Carson cable Channel 10, today to Dec 13.

Army Newswatch: includes stories on the "Hooah For Health" Web site, Cabanas 2002 and "A Day in the Life" photos. Airt at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

Navy/Marine Corps News: includes stories on the "myPay" program, the Japanese Mikoshi Parade and military athletes in the New York Marathon. Airt at 8 a.m., 1 p.m., 8 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Air Force News: includes stories on Anthrax inoculations, the Airborne Laser System and a

pioneer heart surgery. Airt at 8:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m.

Channel 9 daily broadcasts SCOLA, foreign language news broadcasts. Access the schedule at the Fort Carson Web site.

If you have comments on Channel 10 programming or wish to coordinate a broadcast on Channel 10, please contact Chief of Command Information at 526-1241 or via e-mail at CommandInfo@carson.army.mil.

Program times will be published in the *Mountaineer* provided coordination is made one week prior to publication.

If you wish to have a training videotape shown on Channel 9 only, contact the Regional Training Support Center at 526-5111.

For additions to the Community Calendar, please submit an e-mail or clean, typewritten copy of the information to the Public Affairs Office, room 2180, 6151 Specker Ave., Fort Carson, CO 80913-5119 or fax information to 526-1021 no later than the Friday before airing time.